



Alison Simard <alison.simard@lacity.org>

SJP Conference at UCLA- The College Fix

3 messages

Allegra Thatcher <allegra.thatcher@gmail.com>
To: alison.simard@lacity.org

Fri, Nov 16, 2018 at 9:47 AM

Dear Alison,

My name is Allegra Thatcher and I'm a reporter with The College Fix. We're writing an article covering the recent events surrounding the NSJP Conference at UCLA.

I would like to hear more about Councilman Kortez's stance on this controversy, particularly regarding the issue of free speech.

Please let me know if there is someone I can interview this week. If a phone call is not possible, email will do as well.

Thank you,
Allegra Thatcher

Alison Simard <alison.simard@lacity.org>
To: allegra.thatcher@gmail.com

Fri, Nov 16, 2018 at 3:02 PM

I would be happy to help. Here is a joint press release between our office and Congressman Brad Sherman. And just in case you didn't see Councilmember Koretz's letter to the editor of the Los Angeles Times, [here is the link:](http://www.latimes.com/opinion/readersreact/la-ol-le-gene-block-students-for-justice-in-palestine-ucla-20181115-story.html)

November 16, 2018

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Congressman Brad Sherman and Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz Urge UCLA to Shut Down National Students for Justice in Palestine Conference

Los Angeles City Council Votes Unanimously to Support Councilmember Koretz' Resolution

Los Angeles, CA – Congressman Brad Sherman (D-Sherman Oaks) of the 30th District and Los Angeles City Council member Paul Koretz of the Fifth District announced today that they call on UCLA to cancel the upcoming National Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) Conference scheduled for November 16-18 at UCLA.

Additionally, the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to pass a resolution last week authored by Councilmember Koretz requesting that with the concurrence of the Mayor, the City include in its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program support for any administrative action which would cancel and ban the National Students for Justice in Palestine conference at UCLA.

Both elected officials have sent strongly worded letters to UCLA Chancellor Block. In their letters, they explain that this is not a free speech issue but, rather, that SJP and its members have a record of threatening violence and posting hate speech against Jews and drawing on Nazi propaganda on social media. Moreover, the conference will not be open to all students. Only those who have been “verified and vouched for” by SJP or another pro-Palestinian group on campus would be allowed to attend; meaning that most Jewish students would be excluded from attending the conference.

Both letters and the Council’s Resolution cite Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in federally assisted programs or activities; this includes protecting Jewish students from anti-Semitism.

In May 2018, an on-campus “UCLA Students Supporting Israel” panel event was shut down after SJP members forcefully entered the event, screaming into bullhorns and destroying property to disrupt the peace. University Police had to intervene.

“UCLA should not be providing their facilities, especially at a subsidized rate, to SJP, an organization with well-documented connections to terrorism and hate speech create and whose conference has a clear exclusionary participation policy,” said Congressman Sherman. “But if UCLA insists on moving forward with hosting this conference, Chancellor Block must condemn SJP for its blatant anti-Semitic rhetoric and behavior. It is not enough to say some SJP members have been anti-Semitic. The SJP, as an organization, strongly supports killing as many Jews as possible, perhaps only in the Middle East.”

Before the City Council vote, Councilmember Koretz asked his colleagues for an AYE vote. As a UCLA alumni and a City Councilmember representing the UCLA area, Koretz was

deeply concerned that UCLA would hide behind free speech as a means to accommodate hateful speech and acts; stating “As we work to increase security at Los Angeles Jewish community institutions in light of the Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue massacre, bringing the SJP conference to Los Angeles in which leaders and members exhort to ‘kill all the Jews’ and “stuff some Jews in the oven” is also a significant threat to public safety.”

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Shane Seaver

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Allegra Thatcher <allegra.thatcher@gmail.com>
To: alison.simard@lacity.org

Sun, Nov 18, 2018 at 1:51 PM

Alison,

Thank you for your help!

Best,
Allegra

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